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(54) Drive apparatus for self light emitting display unit

(57) In a drive apparatus capable of driving a self light-emitting display unit such as a plasma display panel in a linear scanning mode based on video signals. Two different image processes are performed on pixel data obtained by sampling interlaced scanning originated video signal, yielding image-processed pixel data

and interpolation pixel data. The self light-emitting display unit is driven in a linear scanning mode by treating the image-processed pixel data as pixel drive data associated with one of an odd line and an even line of the self light-emitting display unit and treating the interpolation pixel data as pixel drive data associated with the other one of the odd line and even line.

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Description

The present invention relates to a drive apparatus for a self light-emitting display unit.

As a method of allowing a plasma display panel as a self light-emitting display unit to present gradation display, there is known a method which divides the display period of one frame (field) into N sub-frames (sub-fields) to permit light emission only for the time corresponding to the weight on each bit position of N-bit display data (so-called sub-field method).

When pixel data consists of eight bits, for example, the display period of one frame is divided to eight sub-frames SF8, SF7, SF6, ..., and SF1 in the order of a heavier weight to a lighter one. At this time, light emissions of 128 pulses, 64 pulses, 32 pulses, 16 pulses, 8 pulses, 4 pulses, 2 pulses and 1 pulse are carried out in the respective sub-frames SF8 to SF1. The light emissions in those eight sub-frames provide 256-gradation display.

This gradation display scheme however has such a problem that a more-like false outline which looks like a gradation-lost image is observed near the area on a flat image where the gradation level crosses the boundary of 2ⁿ gradation levels, such as 128 or 64, which significantly degrades the display quality.

Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. Hei 7-271325 has proposed a gradation display scheme of equally dividing a sub-frame with a heavy weight into a plurality of sub-frames, separating them so as to prepare a plurality of light emission patterns which have the equal light emission time (the equal number of light emissions) but different light emission orders of the sub-frames, and changing the light emission pattern from one to another pixel by pixel (pseudo outline compensation data conversion) to suppress a pseudo outline.

This gradation display scheme however suffers an increased number of sub-frames in one frame period. Further, if the number of bits of pixel data is increased to improve the image quality, the number of sub-frames in one frame period is increased more.

The increase in the number of sub-frames in one frame period increases the addressing period for lighting a plasma display panel for light emission. This relatively shortens the sustain period as the light emission period, reducing the maximum luminescent.

In this respect, a dithering process which reduces the number of bits (the number of sub-frames) of pixel data and effects pseudo intermediate tone display is performed.

The dithering process expresses a single intermediate display level based on plural pieces of pixel data adjacent to one another. In the case where 8-bit equivalent gradation display is demonstrated using the upper six bits of pixel data in 8-bit pixel data, for example, first, dither coefficients different pixel by pixel in each set of four pixels adjoining right and left and up and down are added to pixel data. Then, the upper six bits of the dither-

coefficients added pixel data are extracted to be used as a drive signal for the display panel. This dithering process generates a combination of four different intermediate display levels with four pixels, thus ensuring four times the 6-bit gradation display levels or 8-bit equivalent intermediate tone display.

In the case where an image is displayed on a plasma display based on video signals obtained by interlaced scanning as done in the NTSC system or the high vision system or the like, to compensate a low luminescent of emitted light, pixel data corresponding to odd rows (even rows) of the screen is also assigned directly to even rows (odd rows) for interpolation to drive the display by sequential scanning (linear scanning).

When linear scanning is carried out in the above-described manner after performing the aforementioned pseudo outline compensation data conversion and dithering process, light is emitted from two pixels, arranged in the vertical direction, based on the same pixel data. This raises a problem that dithering-oriented noise, dot interference caused by the pseudo outline compensation and the like are likely to appear more prominently.

Accordingly, it is a primary objective of the present invention to provide a drive apparatus capable of driving a self light-emitting display unit in a linear scanning mode based on video signals, obtained by interlaced scanning, while maintaining a high image quality.

To achieve this object, a drive apparatus for a self light-emitting display unit according to this invention comprises an A/D converter for sampling a video signal, obtained by interlaced scanning, to yield pixel data corresponding to each pixel; image data processing means for performing an image data process on the pixel data to acquire image-processed pixel data and performing an image data process, different from the former image data process, on the pixel data to acquire interpolation data; and drive means for driving the self light-emitting display unit in a linear scanning mode by treating the image-processed pixel data as pixel drive data associated with one of an odd line and an even line of the self light-emitting display unit and treating the interpolation pixel data as pixel drive data associated with the other one of the odd line and even line.

Fig. 1 is a diagram schematically illustrating the structure of a plasma display equipped with a drive apparatus according to this invention;

Fig. 2 is a diagram showing positions of individual pixels on a screen;

Fig. 3 is a diagram illustrating signal waveforms for the internal operation of an image data processor 3; Fig. 4 is a diagram showing the internal structure of a dithering circuit 31;

Fig. 5 is a diagram showing the internal structure of a pseudo outline compensation data converter 32; Fig. 6 is a diagram exemplifying first and second mode conversion tables in the pseudo outline compensation data converter 32;

Fig. 7 is a diagram further exemplifying first and second mode conversion tables in the pseudo outline compensation data converter 32;

Fig. 8 is a diagram showing a light emission format in terms of sub-frames; and

Fig. 9 is a diagram exemplifying the association of individual pixels with compensation pixel data.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating the structure of a plasma display equipped with a drive apparatus according to this invention.

In Fig. 1, an A/D converter 1 samples an input video signal in accordance with a first clock signal CK1 of a frequency f_s , supplied from a control circuit 2, to acquire N-bit pixel data D for each pixel and sequentially sends the pixel data D to an image data processor 3.

The image data processor 3 comprises a dithering circuit 31 for executing data processing in accordance with a second clock signal CK2 of a frequency $2 \cdot f_s$ supplied from the control circuit 2, and a pseudo outline compensation data converter 32.

Those dithering circuit 31 and pseudo outline compensation data converter 32 carry out processing (which will be discussed later) on the pixel data D to accomplish pseudo intermediate tone display with a less number of bits in pixel data. The dithering circuit 31 and the pseudo outline compensation data converter 32 generate pseudo-outline compensated pixel data and supply the data to a frame memory 4.

The frame memory 4 sequentially writes the pixel data, sent from the image data processor 3, at every timing of the second clock signal CK2 from the control circuit 2. Further, the frame memory 4 reads the written pixel data at the timing of the second clock signal CK2 and sends it as pixel drive data to a column electrode driver 6.

The control circuit 2 generates the aforementioned first clock signal CK1 and second clock signal CK2, and further generates a reset timing signal, a scan timing signal, a sustain timing signal and an erase timing signal in accordance with horizontal and vertical sync signals of an input video signal and supplies those timing signals to a row electrode driver 5.

In accordance with those various timing signals, the row electrode driver 5 generates a reset pulse for initializing the amount of residual charges, a scan pulse for writing pixel data, a sustain pulse for sustaining the discharge light emission state and an erase pulse for stopping discharge light emission, and applies those pulses to pairs of row electrodes 20₁ to 20_n of a PDP (Plasma Display Panel) 10. At this time, the scan pulse is sequentially applied to the pairs of row electrodes from 20₁ to 20_n.

The column electrode driver 6 divides one frame of pixel drive data read from the frame memory 4 into bits

with the same weight, generates a pixel data pulse having a voltage value corresponding to a logic value "1" or "0" of that bit, and applies the pulse to column electrodes 30₁ to 30_m of the PDP 10.

When the scan pulse is applied to the PDP 10 while the pixel data pulse from the column electrode driver 6 is applied, a charge corresponding to the applied pixel data pulse is written in the PDP 10. At this time, light emission occurs at the intersection of a column electrode applied with the pixel data pulse corresponding to, for example, logic "1" and a row electrode pair applied with the scan pulse. This intersection is equivalent to each pixel G on the screen of the PDP 10 as shown in Fig. 2. When the sustain pulse is applied by the row electrode driver 5 thereafter, the light emission state is maintained for the time corresponding to the number of the sustain pulses applied. A viewer would visually sense the luminescence corresponding to the time for sustaining the light emission state.

The operation of the image data processor 3 will now be discussed with reference to the signal waveforms for the internal operation illustrated in Fig. 3.

Fig. 4 shows the internal structure of the dithering circuit 31 in the image data processor 3.

Referring to Fig. 4, N-bit pixel data D for each pixel corresponding to a video signal is sequentially supplied to an adder 320 for each first clock signal CK1 of a frequency f_s as shown in Fig. 3. Since this video signal has been produced by interlaced scanning, pixel data corresponding to an odd row of pixels in the entire pixels of the PDP 10 shown in Fig. 2 are supplied first, and then pixel data corresponding to an even row of pixels are supplied. As shown in Fig. 3, for example, after pixel data D₁₁-D_{1m} respectively corresponding to the first row of pixels G₁₁-G_{1m} of Fig. 2 are supplied, pixel data D₃₁-D_{3m} respectively corresponding to the next row or the third row of pixels G₃₁-G_{3m} are supplied. When pixel data D_{m1}-D_{mm} respectively corresponding to the last odd row of pixels G_{m1}-G_{mm} are supplied, pixel data D₂₁-D_{2m} respectively corresponding to the first even row of pixels G₂₁-G_{2m} are supplied.

A dither generator 310 repeatedly generates a dither coefficient a, dither coefficient c, dither coefficient b and dither coefficient d in circulation for each second clock signal CK2 of a frequency $2 \cdot f_s$ as shown in Fig. 3, and supplies those dither coefficients to the adder 320. The adder 320 adds those dither coefficients to the pixel data D sequentially supplied from the A/D converter 1, and sends the resultant dither-added pixel data to an upper-bit extractor 330.

Referring to Fig. 3, for example, the dither coefficient a is added to the pixel data D₁₁ at the first row and the first column to acquire dither-added pixel data (D₁₁+a), and then the dither coefficient c is added to the pixel data D₁₁ to acquire dither-added pixel data (D₁₁+c). Subsequently, the dither coefficient b is added to the pixel data D₁₂ at the first row and the second column to acquire dither-added pixel data (D₁₂+b), and

then the dither coefficient d is added to the pixel data D_{12} to acquire dither-added pixel data ($D_{12}+d$).

In other words, two different dither coefficients (the dither coefficients a and c , or the dither coefficients b and d) are added to a single piece of pixel data to newly generate two pieces of dither-added pixel data.

The upper-bit extractor 330 extracts upper M bits of data of such dither-added pixel data and supplies the data as dithered pixel data Z to the pseudo outline compensation data converter 32 at the subsequent stage.

When N is "8" and M is "6", i.e., when the pixel data D for each pixel supplied from the A/D converter 1 consists of eight bits and the number of upper bits to be extracted by the upper-bit extractor 330 is "6", the patterns of the dither coefficients a to d are set as follows.

dither coefficient $a = 0$
 dither coefficient $b = 3$
 dither coefficient $c = 2$
 dither coefficient $d = 1$

Fig. 5 shows the internal structure of the pseudo outline compensation data converter 32.

Referring to Fig. 5, a first converter 321 converts the dithered pixel data Z consisting of, for example, six bits supplied from the dithering circuit 31 to 8-bit pixel data based on a first mode conversion table as shown in Fig. 6 or 7, and supplies the converted data as pseudo outline compensation pixel data AZ to a selector 322. Meanwhile, a second converter 323 converts the dithered pixel data Z consisting of, for example, six bits supplied from the dithering circuit 31 to 8-bit pixel data based on a second mode conversion table as shown in Fig. 6 or 7, and supplies the converted data as pseudo outline compensation pixel data BZ to the selector 322.

The logic value "0" of each bit in the pseudo outline compensation pixel data AZ (BZ) shown in Fig. 6 or 7 designates no light emission while the logic value "1" designates light emission. The light emission period in one frame period accords to the light emission format in Fig. 8.

For example, bit 7 of the pseudo outline compensation pixel data AZ corresponds to light emission in the sub-frame $SF4$ in Fig. 8, and when its logic value is "1", light emission is carried out for the period of "8". Bit 6 corresponds to light emission in the sub-frame $SF1$, and when its logic value is "1", light emission is carried out for the period of "16". Bit 5 corresponds to light emission in the sub-frame $SF2$, and when its logic value is "1", light emission is carried out for the period of "2". Bit 4 corresponds to light emission in the sub-frame $SF5_1$, and when its logic value is "1", light emission is carried out for the period of "8". Bit 3 corresponds to light emission in the sub-frame $SF3$, and when its logic value is "1", light emission is carried out for the period of "4". Bit 2 corresponds to light emission in the sub-frame $SF1$, and when its logic value is "1", light emission is carried out for the period of "1". Bit 1 corresponds to light emis-

sion in the sub-frame $SF6_2$, and when its logic value is "1", light emission is carried out for the period of "16". Further, bit 0 corresponds to light emission in the sub-frame $SF5_2$, and when its logic value is "1", light emission is carried out for the period of "8". The sum of the light emission periods in those $SF1$ - $SF6$ is equivalent to the luminance level.

At this time, the sub-frame $SF6$ (equivalent to the light emission period of "32") which has a heavy weight is separated to the sub-frames $SF6_1$ and $SF6_2$ each specifying the light emission period of "16" and both arranged apart from each other. Further, the sub-frame $SF5$ (equivalent to the light emission period of "16") which also has a heavy weight is separated to the sub-frames $SF5_1$ and $SF5_2$ each specifying the light emission period of "8" and both arranged apart from each other. Two conversion patterns that have different light emission positions in sub-frames in one frame, whose total light emission periods are the same and whose light emission periods are equal to one another, are prepared in the first and second mode conversion tables to suppress a pseudo outline.

With regard to the pseudo outline compensation pixel data AZ equivalent to the luminance level "16" in Fig. 6, for example, light emission for the period of "8" is carried out at the positions of the sub-frames $SF4$ and $SF5$, shown in Fig. 8, while for the pseudo outline compensation pixel data BZ equivalent to the luminance level "16", light emission for the period of "8" is carried out at the positions of the sub-frames $SF5_1$ and $SF5_2$.

Even with the same luminance level, a pseudo outline can be suppressed by shifting the position of light emission in one frame period from one pixel to another adjacent pixel in the aforementioned manner.

Driving for such light emission is carried out by the row electrode driver 5 and the column electrode driver 6.

Data conversions by the first converter 321 and the second converter 323 are executed in synchronism with the second clock signal $CK2$.

The selector 322 selects one of the pseudo outline compensation pixel data AZ supplied from the first converter 321 and the pseudo outline compensation pixel data BZ supplied from the second converter 323 which accords to the logic value of a select signal supplied from the control circuit 2 as shown in Fig. 3, and sends the selected one to the frame memory 4.

When the logic value of the select signal is "0" in Fig. 3, the selector 322 selects the pseudo outline compensation pixel data AZ supplied from the first converter 321 and sends it to the frame memory 4. When the logic value of the select signal is "1", on the other hand, the selector 322 selects the pseudo outline compensation pixel data BZ supplied from the second converter 323 and sends it to the frame memory 4.

The operations of the dithering circuit 31 and the pseudo outline compensation data converter 32 permit the first compensation pixel data $AZ(D_{11}+a)$ and the second compensation pixel data $BZ(D_{11}+c)$ to be generated

based on the pixel data D_{11} supplied in association with the pixel G_{11} in Fig. 2 and to be stored in the frame memory 4. Further, the first compensation pixel data $BZ(D_{12}+b)$ and the second compensation pixel data $AZ(D_{12}+d)$ are generated based on the pixel data D_{12} associated with the pixel G_{12} in Fig. 2 and are stored in the frame memory 4.

As shown in Fig. 9, the first compensation pixel data $AZ(D_{11}+a)$ is read out from the frame memory 4 as pixel drive data corresponding to the pixel G_{11} at the first row and first column, and the first compensation pixel data $BZ(D_{12}+b)$ is read out from the frame memory 4 as pixel drive data corresponding to the pixel G_{12} at the first row and second column.

Furthermore, as shown in Fig. 9, the second compensation pixel data $BZ(D_{11}+c)$ is read out from the frame memory 4 as pixel drive data corresponding to the pixel G_{21} at the second row and first column, and the second compensation pixel data $AZ(D_{12}+d)$ is read out from the frame memory 4 as pixel drive data corresponding to the pixel G_{22} at the second row and second column.

At this time, the first compensation pixel data $AZ(D_{11}+a)$ and $BZ(D_{12}+b)$ are image-processed pixel data which is the supplied pixel data corresponding to the first row having undergone image processing by the image data processor 3. The second compensation pixel data $BZ(D_{11}+c)$ and $AZ(D_{12}+d)$ are compensation pixel data corresponding to the second row interpolated on the basis of the first row of pixel data.

Pixel drive data respectively corresponding to those image-processed pixel data and interpolation pixel data are sequentially read from the frame memory 4 from the one that corresponds to the first row, and are supplied to the column electrode driver 6. This operation permits display in an linear scanning mode to be effected based on the video signal produced by the interlaced scanning.

According to the drive apparatus embodying this invention, as apparent from the above, two different image processes are performed on pixel data obtained by sampling interlaced scanning originated video signal, yielding image-processed pixel data and interpolation pixel data. The self light-emitting display unit is driven in an linear scanning mode by treating the image-processed pixel data as pixel drive data associated with one of an odd line and an even line of the self light-emitting display unit and treating the interpolation pixel data as pixel drive data associated with the other one of the odd line and even line.

In short, this invention is effective in that at the time a video signal of a interlaced scanning mode is converted to a video signal of an linear scanning mode which is to be displayed, noise and dot interference on the screen, which are originated from image processing, are suppressed, advantageously.

The foregoing description of this invention has been given with reference to one preferred embodiment. It should however be apparent to those skilled in the art

that this invention may be changed or modified in various forms all within the scope of the appended claims.

5 Claims

1. A drive apparatus for a self light-emitting display unit, comprising:

an A/D converter for sampling a video signal, obtained by interlaced scanning, to yield pixel data corresponding to each pixel;
image data processing means for performing an image data process on said pixel data to acquire image-processed pixel data and performing an image data process, different from the former image data process, on said pixel data to acquire interpolation data; and
drive means for driving said self light-emitting display unit in an linear scanning mode by treating said image-processed pixel data as pixel drive data associated with one of an odd line and an even line of said self light-emitting display unit and treating said interpolation pixel data as pixel drive data associated with the other one of said odd line and even line.

2. The drive apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image data processing means is a pseudo outline compensation data converter comprising:

a first conversion means for converting said pixel data based on a first conversion table to acquire first pseudo outline compensation pixel data;
a second conversion means for converting said pixel data based on a second conversion table different from said first conversion table to acquire second pseudo outline compensation pixel data; and
selection means for selecting one of said first and second pseudo outline compensation pixel data as said image-processed pixel data and selecting the other one as said interpolation pixel data.

3. The drive apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said drive means divides one frame to a plurality of sub-frames having light emission periods corresponding to individual bit positions of said pixel drive data and further divides a sub-frame corresponding to a bit position with a heavy weight into a plurality of sub-frames, thereby allowing pixels of said self light-emitting display unit to emit light only in those sub-frames associated with said pixel drive data; and

each of said first and second conversion tables is a conversion pattern for converting a bit pat-

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term of said pixel data in such a manner that light emission positions in sub-frames having an equal light emission period become different from one another.

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4. The drive apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image data processing means includes a dithering circuit for performing a dithering process by adding a first dither coefficient to said pixel data and adding a second dither coefficient different from 10 said first dither coefficient to said pixel data.
5. The drive apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image data processing means and said drive means perform image data processing at a clock 15 rate twice a rate of said sampling to convert a video signal, produced by said interlaced scanning, to pixel drive data in an linear scanning form.

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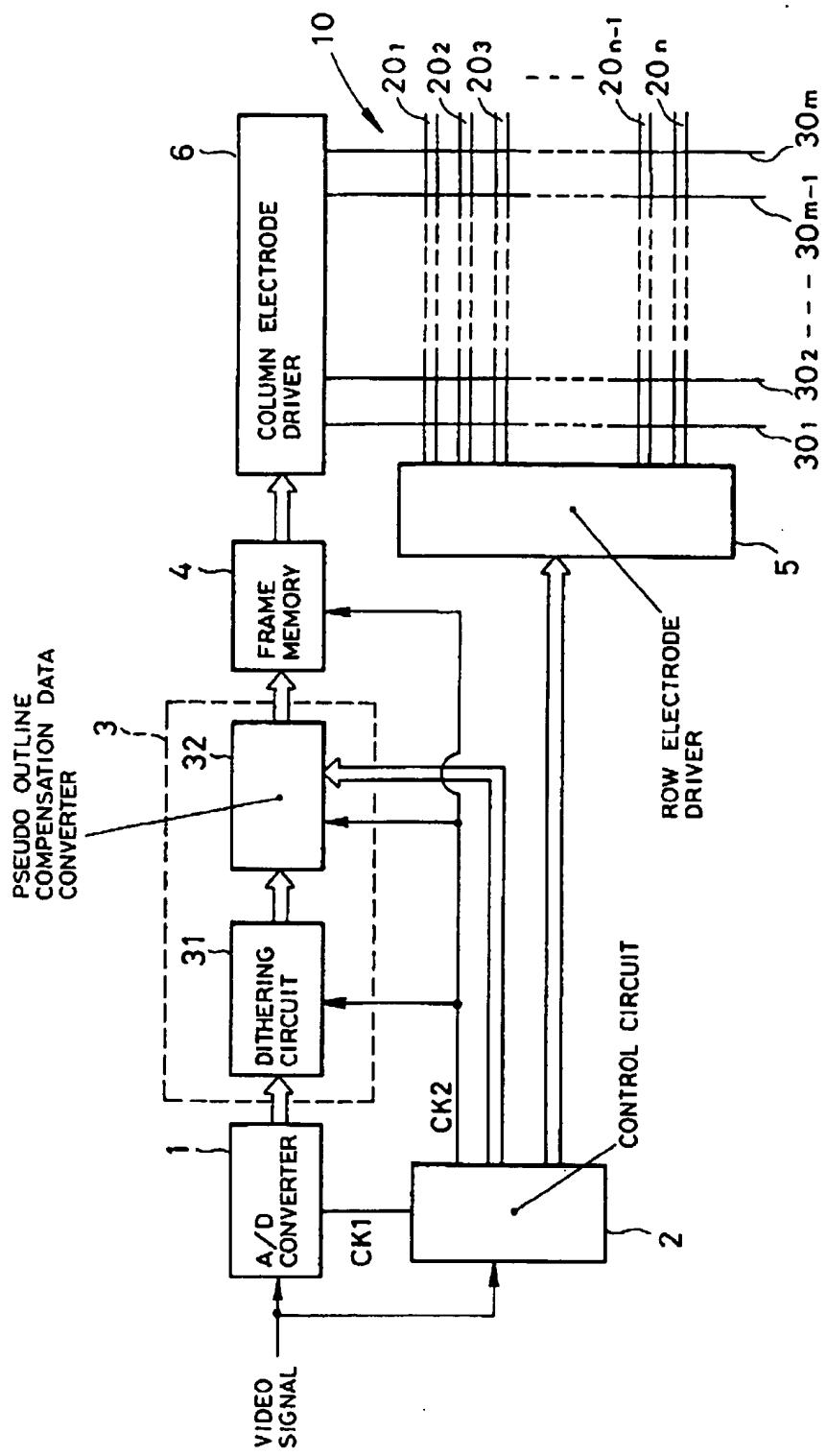
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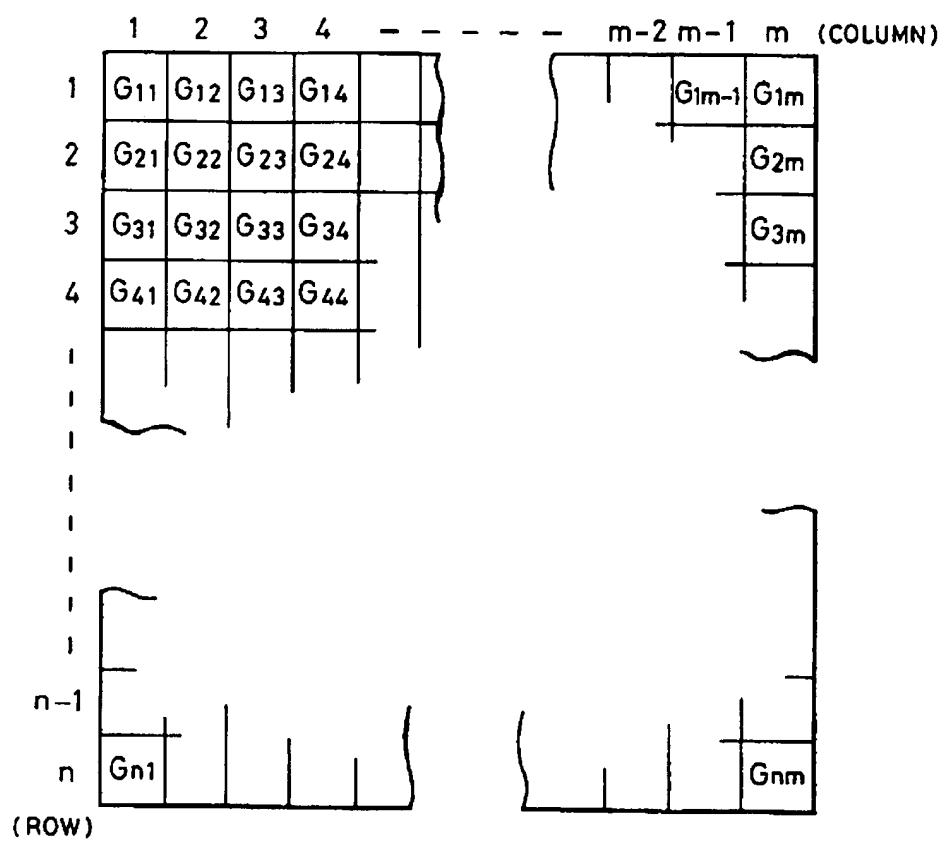
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FIG. 1



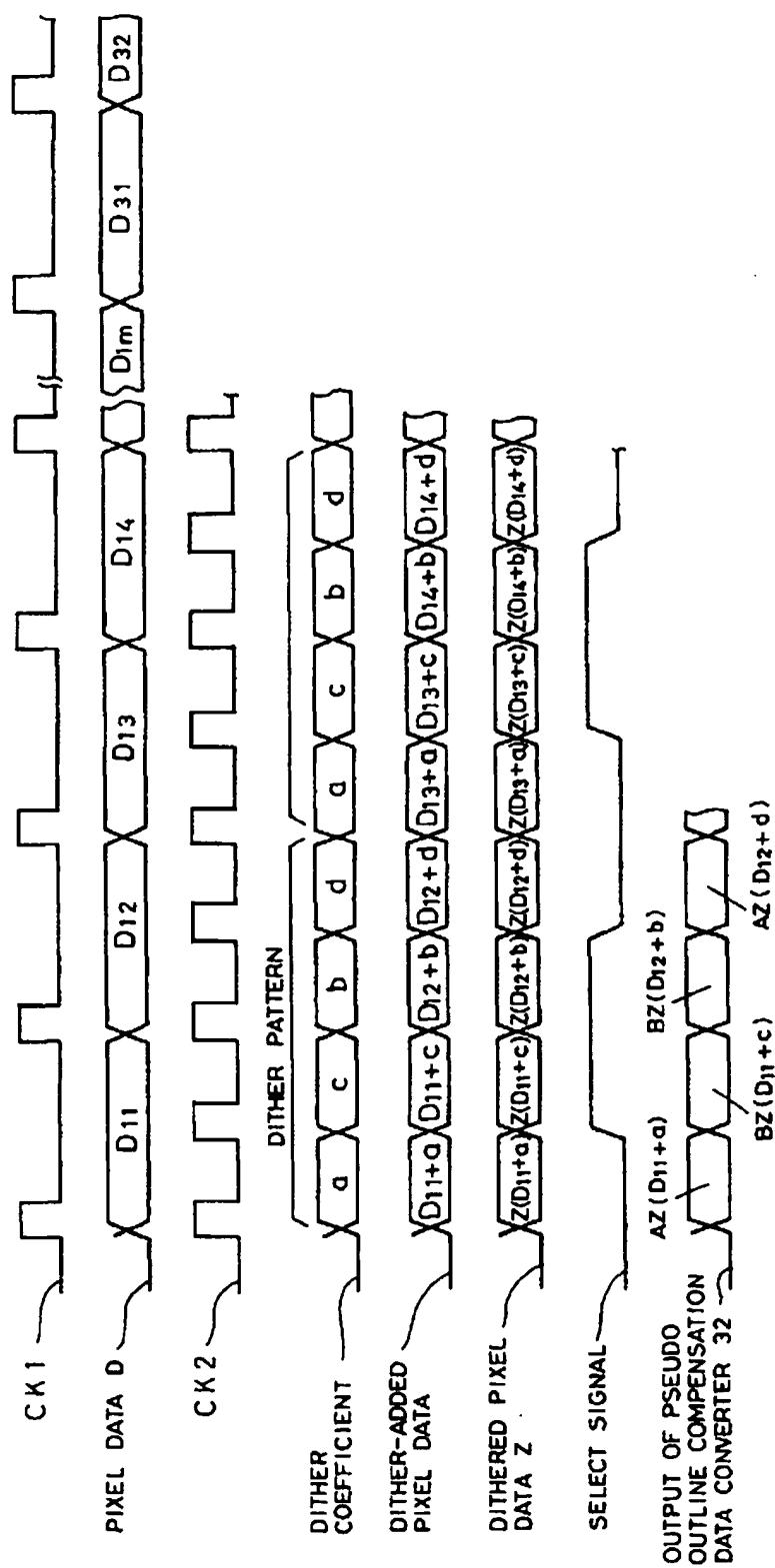
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FIG.2



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FIG. 4

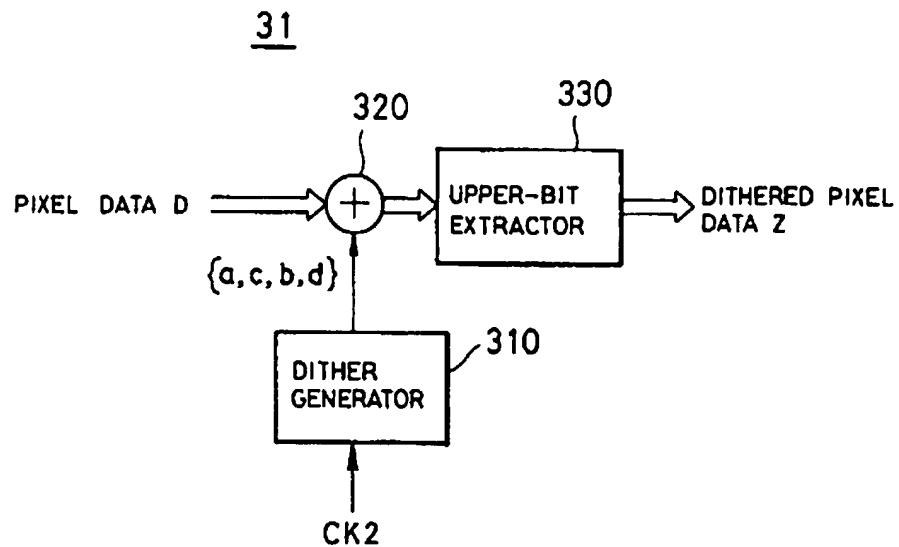
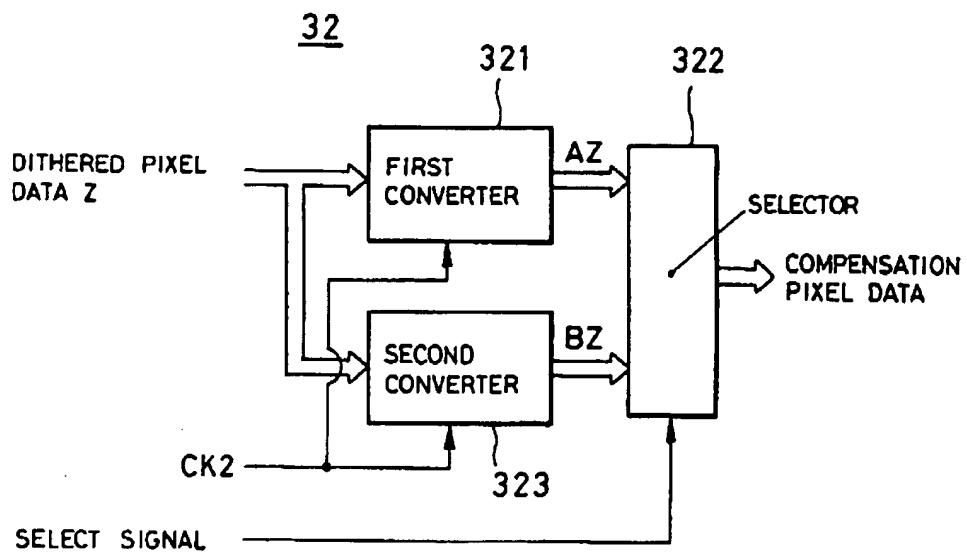


FIG. 5



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FIG.6

DITHER COMPENSATION
PIXEL DATA

LUMINANCE LEVEL		FIRST CONVERSION TABLE	SECOND CONVERSION TABLE
	BITS 5 ~ 0	AZ BITS 7 ~ 0	BZ BITS 7 ~ 0
0	000000	00000000	00000000
1	000001	00000100	00000100
2	000010	00100000	00100000
3	000011	00100100	00100100
4	000100	00001000	00001000
5	000101	00001100	00001100
6	000110	00101000	00101000
7	000111	00101100	00101100
8	001000	00010000	00010000
9	001001	00010100	00010100
10	001010	00110000	00110000
11	001011	00110100	00110100
12	001100	00011000	00011000
13	001101	00011100	00011100
14	001110	00111000	00111000
15	001111	00111100	00111100
16	010000	10010000	00010001
17	010001	10010100	00101001
18	010010	10110000	00110001
19	010011	10110100	00110101
20	010100	10011000	00011001
21	010101	10011100	00011101
22	010110	10111000	00111001
23	010111	10111100	00111101
24	011000	10010001	10010001
25	011001	10010101	10010101
26	011010	10110001	10110001
27	011011	10110101	10110101
28	011100	10011001	10011001
29	011101	10011101	10011101
30	011110	10111001	10111001
31	011111	10111101	10111101

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FIG.7

DITHER COMPENSATION
PIXEL DATA

LUMINANCE LEVEL		FIRST CONVERSION TABLE	SECOND CONVERSION TABLE
	BITS 5 ~ 0	AZ BITS 7 ~ 0	BZ BITS 7 ~ 0
32	100000	01010001	10010010
33	100001	01010101	10010110
34	100010	01110001	10110010
35	100011	01110101	10110110
36	100100	01011001	10011010
37	100101	01011101	10011110
38	100110	01111001	10111010
39	100111	01111101	10111110
40	101000	01010010	01010010
41	101001	01010110	01010110
42	101010	01110010	01110010
43	101011	01110110	01110110
44	101100	01011010	01011010
45	101101	01011110	01011110
46	101110	01111010	01111010
47	101111	01111110	01111110
48	110000	11010010	01010011
49	110001	11010110	01010111
50	110010	11110010	01110011
51	110011	11110110	01110111
52	110100	11011010	01011011
53	110101	11011110	01011111
54	110110	11111010	01111011
55	110111	11111110	01111111
56	111000	11010011	11010011
57	111001	11010111	11010111
58	111010	11110011	11110011
59	111011	11110111	11110111
60	111100	11011011	11011011
61	111101	11011111	11011111
62	111110	11110111	11110111
63	111111	11111111	11111111

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FIG. 8

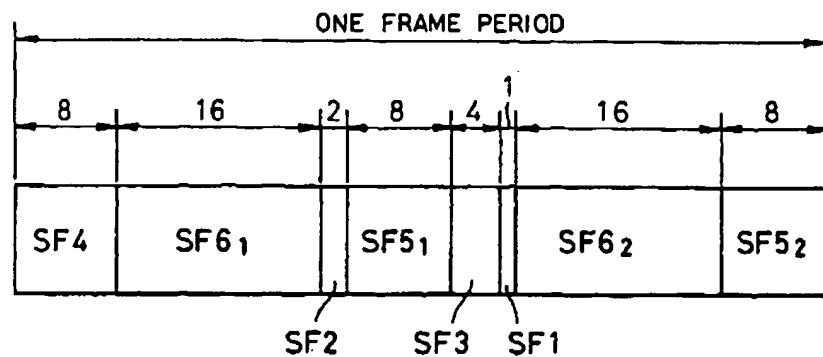
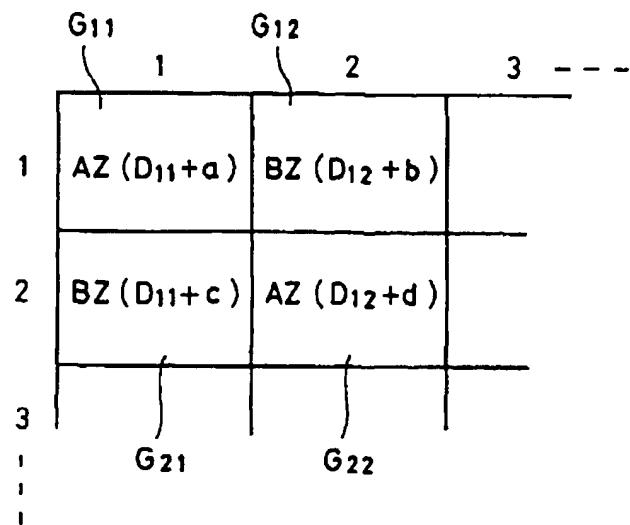


FIG. 9



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